

Submitter: Carl Lerche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a proud resident of Portland for the past 25 years, I must express my vehement opposition to the HB 3501 that would sanction homeless camping in Oregon. The homelessness crisis is already wreaking havoc on our community, driving out long-term residents, increasing crime rates, and creating an unsafe environment for our children. Tragically, many of my friends and neighbors have already made the difficult decision to relocate, citing the current homeless situation as the primary reason for their departure. I, too, have reluctantly begun to consider moving away from the state that I hold dear.

This bill, rather than addressing the root causes of homelessness, would only serve to further normalize the issue and exacerbate the detrimental effects we are already experiencing. Our once-thriving state is deteriorating before our eyes, and it is imperative that we develop comprehensive, humane, and effective solutions to combat the problem, rather than merely accepting it as the status quo. I implore our legislators to rethink this misguided proposal and invest in strategies that will create lasting change for the betterment of our community.